

Customer No.: 31561
Application No.: 10/064,527
Docket No.: 8992-US-PA

REMARKS

Present Status of the Application

Applicants appreciate that claims 3-7, 9, 10, and 13 have been considered to be allowable.

The Office Action rejects claims 1 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Shigeta et al. (U. S. Patent 6,646,625; hereinafter Shigeta). In addition, the Office Action rejects claims 11-12 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Seiji et al. (JP09-006282; hereinafter Seiji). The Office Action rejects claims 1-2 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Seiji in view of Shigeta.

Applicants have amended claims to rewrite the allowable dependent claims 3, 5, 9 and 13 into currently amended independent claims 1, 5, 8 and 11. Claims 1, 4-8, and 10-12 remain pending in the present application and should be allowable.

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CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is believed that all the pending claims 1, 4-8, and 10-12 of the invention patently define over the prior art and are in proper condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite the examination of the above-identified patent application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

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Respectfully submitted,

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